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22 July 1974

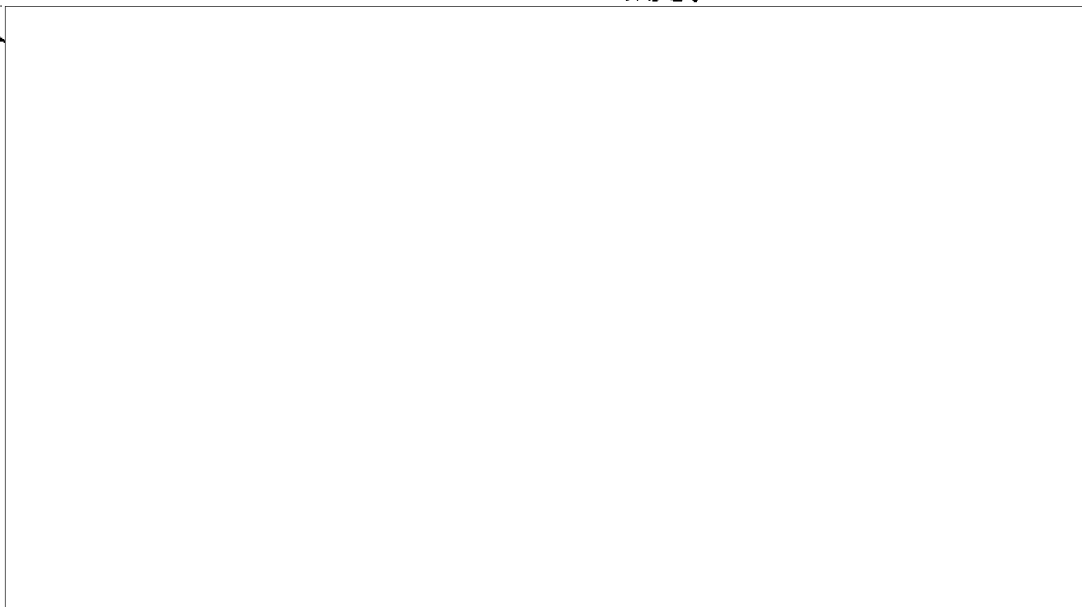
BRIEFING FOR  
22 JULY WSAG MEETING

ETS-HK AA 11163

CYPRUS

I. Both sides, having agreed to a cease-fire for 1000 Washington time today, appear to be making last minute efforts to improve their positions. Fighting resumed this morning, particularly in the Kyrenia area on the northern coast.

A.



25X1

B.

II. Ankara and Athens are both saying that they are satisfied with their military performances, and what appears to have become a military standoff.

A.



25X1

DIA, DOS, NSC reviews completed.

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B.

C. Athens is pleased that the Greek Cypriot forces were able to contain the Turkish regular forces. Elsewhere on the island, the Greek Cypriot forces have gained the upper hand in intercommunal fighting. Stories of Greek Cypriot atrocities continue to come in, but we have no

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confirmation of these. UN forces on the island have not reported any mass executions or other excesses.

- D. On the mainland, the Greeks yesterday were still moving reinforcements toward the Turkish border, and there were some reports that Ankara was also sending more troops to the area. The border itself, however, was calm.

III. Soviet response to the situation on Cyprus has continued to be limited and low key.

A.

B.

IV. The crisis may be affecting the political scene in Athens--especially the decision making process.

A.

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B. Prime Minister Androutsopoulos told Secretary Sisco yesterday that young military officers would take over the government within 24 hours.

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2. The cease-fire announcement, however, could deter or postpone such an attempt.

V. The cease-fire--if it holds--leaves a messy situation on the ground in Cyprus, which will complicate efforts to work out a solution.

A. The Turkish failure to render their corridor to the Nicosia enclave secure means that they lack the easily defensible core area they would need to establish partition; they further lack sufficient territory to accommodate resettlement of the other Turkish enclaves most were captured by the Cyprus National Guard.

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- B. This outcome increases the possibility that some form of ostensibly independent Cyprus state will continue to exist, though Athens and Ankara will have a much more direct role on the island than they had under the Makarios regime.
- C. The Cyprus National Guard's relative success against the Turks has relieved immediate pressure against Ioannidis for his handling of the Cyprus issue. It probably does not guarantee his position for very long, however, and the crisis of recent days has undoubtedly increased ferment within the ranks of the Greek military.
- D. The future of US-Greek relations becomes increasingly uncertain to the extent that the NATO alliance appears to be responsible for blocking of Greek desires. There is strong pro-US sentiment in the Greek military hierarchy, however, that could well survive even this extended ferment.

But these are the mechanics of how the cease-fire was achieved. The problem now is, "Where do we go from here?" Our expectation is that within the next few days, hopefully by Wednesday, probably the Foreign Ministers of Greece and Turkey will meet under British auspices in Geneva and these talks can settle the constitutional arrangements of Cyprus and all other issues that stem from recent events. And we believe, therefore, that a rather complicated crisis which had dangers of internationalization has been overcome.

We have been in touch with the Soviet Union throughout, and we believe that there will be no complications from that side. And these exchanges have been constructive.

So we hope that during the course of the week we can move the situation towards a solution that will be acceptable.



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